

They Otter Be Here



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National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Part I: Overview of Business

The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium is a museum located in Dubuque, Iowa. The campus includes over a dozen aquariums featuring wildlife representative of that found in the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico and other river systems and deltas. Their mission is to inspire stewardship by creating educational experiences where history and rivers come alive.

Part II: Job Specifics

This problem would be solved using many different people/departments including: Living Collections, Finances, Development, and Facilities.

Part III: Introduce the Problem

The museum wants to determine if it would be a good business decision to get a second otter. This would require the museum to construct a new, larger enclosure for the two otters. How much would this cost? How much time would it take? Would it be cost effective?

Part IV: Background

- [Article on otters at the River Museum](#)
- Students will need to have knowledge of several math concepts such as surface area and volume, fractions and decimals, percentages, representing statistics, etc.
- Students will also need to know the cost of an otter, amount of food an otter eats per day, cost of food, cost of building materials, timeline for building, general needs of an otter (how much space, how much water/how deep, etc.)

Part V: Business Solution

The museum staff would research and gather a substantial amount of data and potential costs, then collaborate to determine whether or not this would be a financially beneficial decision.

Part VI: Student Solutions

Students will come up with an overall yes or no to solve the problem of whether it would be beneficial to the museum or not. Their answers will vary depending on where they got their research, how deep they went in their research, correct calculations, etc.